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THE BATTLE OF STONO.

[The following papers relating to the Battle of Stono, June 20, 1779, are from the Laurens Collection. They are all in the handwriting of the Hon. Henry Laurens, and are, of course, not originals, but copies made by Mr. Laurens.]

[1.]

[EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS DESCRIBING STONO.]

a Capt[1] in Gen Lincoln's

Extract of a Letter (dated) Camp at Sommer's plantation Stono— 20th June 1779

Last Night Gen: Lincoln ordered the greatest part of his Army to march towards Stono ferry & this Morning about half past 7 °Clock, they attacked the Enemy's lines at about 40 yards distance & continued 'till near 9, °Clock when the General ordered a retreat to be made, I suppose we had upwards of 2000 Men, & the Enemy about 1200. but as their Lines were defended by Abbatis & Piquets, it prevented our Men from forcing them, which perhaps was the occasion of the retreat, however we certainly have kill'd & wounded many of them, for there was a whole piquet consisting of 3 officers & 40 Men almost destroyed by our infantry—Col: Roberts had his Leg shattered by a cannon ball & soon expired, Capt: James Mitchel of the Artillery is wounded, as also the following officers—Col: Armstrong, Major Dixon, Major Eaton & Lieut[t]: Campbell, of the North Carolina new Levies, Capt: Hext & Lieut: Fishburn, also Adj[t]: Ham-

[1]The name "Warley" is scratched out after "Capt".

ilton of the 1st Regt.— Capt Goodwyn of the 3d Regt: Capt: Doggat & Lieut: Pollard of the 6h Regt: & between 70 & 80. Men, some of Both Officers & Men are Mortally wounded—poor E George Ancrum, was shot thro' the Breast & I am told cant survive many hours, our officers & Men behaved with the greatest bravery, they only want to be a little more used to this kind of work—Major Whiting one of the Generals Aids was slightly wounded in the head & I suppose many other person's whom I can't recollect—Three Deserters came in to us, from out of the Lines as soon as the Engagement began, Col: Johnson of the North Carolina Lovalists is mortally wounded—

Eaid to Gen: Huger—

Extract of a Letter from an Officer in Gen Lincoln's Army of the same date—[2]

Last night at twelve oClock our army marched to attack the enemy, the Canonade began at half past 7. & lasted till near ¼ past 9 oClock, the firing very heavy for ¾. of an hour, the Enemy sallied upon Col. Henderson's Light Infantry who ordered to charge with Bayonets, when they run, leaving 27. killed & a Colonel Johnson—but they were too strongly posted to force their Works our people behaved Gallantly & approached within 25 Yards of their redoubts; it is said two of them were entered but we were obliged to retreat—the enemy's loss must be considerable ours is a few killed & about 80. wounded. among them Colonel Roberts (since dead)—Major George Ancrum, Lieut: Dogget & Capt. Hicks[3] dangerously—Lieut Fishburn & others slightly. The retreat was conducted with good order, it will reflect honour upon our Troops as well as be of service in convincing the Ennemy that we have spirit & bravery as

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[2]"Mr Rapley's" is scratched out and "a" inserted before the word "Letter", and "from an Officer in Gen Lincoln's Army" after.
[3]Hext.

well as showing to our own people that they are not invincible——

Endorsed: Extract of two Letters of
the 20th. June 1779. givg
an Acct. of the Engagement
at Stono that morng
Endorsed also: Accot. of the killed, wounded
and missing 20th June 1779

[2.]

[ANOTHER ACCOUNT OF STONO.]

Extract of a Letter from an Officer of Rank in So Carolina —22 June 1779

Gen Lincoln, having received such intelligence of the intention, strength, and position of the Enemy, as render'd it advisable to attack them at Stono Ferry, did so on the 20th. instant, about 7 o'Clock in the morning, with great vigor.—They are advantageously posted, & covered by three strong redoubts and a well constructed abbatis, supported by several pieces of Artillery. the Picquets having been driven in, the attack began on the right, which was instantly continued through the line.—a large body of Highlanders sallied out on our left, but was soon driven, with considerable slaughter, into their Redoubts.—The action continued, without intermission, 36 minutes, when, as the General could not draw the Enemy out of their lines, (which were so strongly constructed, that our light Field pieces would make no impression upon them) as the force of the Enemy was much greater, than had been represented, & as they had, during the engagement, obtained a large reinforcement from John's Island, our troops were withdrawn from the lines, & all our artillery & wounded brought off.—our loss is not considerable.—many of the wounded are

already on duty, & most of the rest, (their wounds being slight) it is judg'd, will soon recover.—
The Enemy's is supposed to be much greater, as a number of their dead were reckon'd on the Ground; and it was observed, that their field pieces were several times left without men to work them,—upon the whole, though we had not the wish'd for success, our people are convinc'd, that they would have beaten the Enemy, if they had quitted their lines, it is probable, from the Enemy's sticking close to them, that they were of the same opinion. our men are in high spirits, & wish for a fair trial, by equal numbers, in the open field.——
June 23d. Two Small Privateers from St. Augustine went into Santee River last Monday on a plundering scheme The Militia Guard stationed there killed the Captn. & took one of the Privateers the Lieuts. of both & the Crew of one consisting of 10 Men just brought to Town & retook 16 Negroes—the other Privateer made her Escape our People received no Hurt——

[3.]

[THE CASUALTIES AT STONO.]

Killed Wounded & Missing 20 June 1779.[4]

1st Battal. Lt Infantry	5	Killed—9	Wounded
2d	3	11.	
So Caro. Cont. Brig.	5	25.	7 Missing
No. Caro. Cont Brig	10	37.	
No. Caro Militia	2	20	
So Caro Militia	1	6	2.
Artillery	3	7	
Militia Light Horse	1	1	
	30	116	9.

[4] This may or may not have been copied from an official report of the battle; there is no evidence on the face of the document by which that question could be settled.

Wounded Officers

Capt Hext	2d. Bat. Light Infy.
Lt. Irby	2d. Bat. Light Infy.
Lt. Smith	2d. Bat. Light Infy.
Capt Dogget..	since dead
Capt Goodwin	So Caro. Cont Brigade
Lt. Fishbourn	So Caro. Cont Brigade
Lt. Hamilton	So Caro. Cont Brigade
Lt. Pollard	So Caro. Cont Brigade
Colo. Roberts	since dead
Capt Mitchell	since dead

Colo- Armstrong	No. Caro Cont. Brig.
Lt. Colo. Lyttle	No. Caro Cont. Brig.
Maj Dixon	No. Caro Cont. Brig.
Capt Rhodes	No. Caro Cont. Brig.
Lt. Campbell	No. Caro Cont. Brig.
Lt. Charleton	No. Caro Cont. Brig.
Capt Speed	since dead
Capt Camplin	No. Caro Militia
Lieut Jones	No. Caro Militia

Lt. Deal	So Caro- Militia
Lt. Prince	So Caro- Militia
Lt Brown	So Caro- Militia
Lt. Davie—Militia Lt Horse	
Colo. Laumoy Engineer	
Mr Whiting	Volunteers.
Mr Ancrum	Volunteers.